



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

January 29, 2008

THREE SENTENCED IN DRUG SMUGGLING RING

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that U.S. District Judge Alia Moses Ludlum sentenced 37 year-old Jaime Torres to 360 months in federal prison, his 36 year old wife Blanca Torres to 97 months in federal prison and his 45 year old brother Roberto Torres to 262 months in federal prison yesterday. Jamie and Roberto Torres also received a concurrent 240 month sentence for conspiring to launder money.

On August 30, 2006, Roberto and Jaime Torres were named in a three count indictment charging them with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than 1000 kilograms of marijuana, conspiracy to import more than 1000 kilograms of marijuana and conspiracy to money launder. Blanca Torres was named in the same indictment and charged with one count of conspiracy to money launder. The time period in the indictment is June 15, 2001 through January 1, 2006.

On August 28, 2007, all three defendants were found guilty on all counts after an 8 day trial which also resulted in a \$750,000 money judgment as to each defendant as well as the forfeiture of real and personal property and bank accounts. This drug smuggling organization was responsible for distributing more than 10,000 kilograms of marijuana and laundering hundreds of thousands of dollars.

This case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney's Herbert Lindsey and Greg Surovic.

#####